

Remarks

The Office Action of June 2, 2011 has been carefully considered. Claims 1 and 9 are amended and Claims 6 and 13 are cancelled. Claims 1 - 15 are currently pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

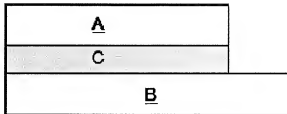
Claims 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Applicants disagree but cancel Claim 13 in order to expedite the prosecution of the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

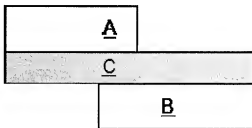
Claims 1 - 3, 5, 7 - 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Samson-Himmelstjerna, et al. (US 2003/0198806). Claims 1 - 3, 5, 7 - 12, 14 - 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Samson-Himmelstjerna, et al. (US 2003/0198806) in view of Zafiroglu (US 7,622,408). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to recite that interlayer C located between outer layers A and B and firmly connected over the entire surface of the outer layers A and B. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the Specification but particularly at page 12 and Fig. 2. Fig. 2, and in particular the right embodiment, shows the interlayer C connected to the entire surface of both outer layer A and outer layer B.

It is believed that the claims have been previously interpreted differently by the Examiner. In particular, Applicants believe the Examiner has been interpreting the claims to cover the following embodiment:



Note that interlayer C is not covering the entire surface area of B. Instead, it is the entire surface area of C that is connected. Claim 1 is amended so that it covers the following:



As currently amended, C is connected over the entire surface of A and C is connected over the entire surface of B.

In addition, Claim 9 is amended to be an independent claim reciting the tape with all the limitations of Claim 1. Neither reference discloses the recited features. Samson discloses a method of wrapping elongate product with an adhesive tape which is passed in a helical movement around the elongate product. The helical movement does not cover a wrapping in an axial direction. The Examiner incorrectly indicates that Samson discloses this feature. It does not.

Samson requires the helical movement. Zafiroglu fails to provide any teaching on this feature and therefore fails to recognize the significant advantages that result. Neither reference teaches or suggests the use of the recited tape in axial direction. If the tape is wound in axial direction around an elongate product the product is only protected by exactly one layer of A, B and C. In a helical movement there are areas in which two turns of the tape overlap, such that there are six layers (A, B, C, A, B, C). The significant abrasion resistance on the product is due to the thick bandage made out of the recited tape. This is not taught or suggested by Samson in view of Zafiroglu.

Further, if one wants to use the tape in axial direction, it is important that the adhesive tape has a very good abrasion resistance. Samson does not suggest that the tape is especially abrasion resistant. One of ordinary skill in the art would not expect that the tape of Samson would work in the claimed method.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 6 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Samson-Himmelstjerna, et al. (US 2003/0198806) and Zafiroglu (US 7,622,408), further in view of Lodde (US 2002/0053392). In order to expedite the application, Claims 6 and 13 are cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Samson-Himmelstjerna, et al. (US 2003/0198806) in view of Tanaka, et al. (US 2003/0118769). For the reasons discussed above with regard to Claim 1, Claim 4 is not taught or suggested by the combination of references.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Samson-Himmelstjerna, et al. (US 2003/0198806) and Zafiroglu (US 7,622,408), further in view of Tanaka, et al. (US 2003/0118769). For the reasons discussed above with regard to Claim 1, Claim 4 is not taught or suggested by the combination of references.

Conclusion

The instant application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance of claims 1-5, 7-12, and 14-15 is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (908) 722-0700 if it is believed that further discussions, and/or additional amendment would help advance the prosecution of the instant application.

If any extension of time for this response is required, applicants request that this be considered a petition therefore. Please charge any required petition fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,

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